

281007Z Jan 05

ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00
	WHA-00	DS-00	EUR-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	HHS-01
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	PER-00	GIWI-00	SGAC-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	EVR-00	FMP-00	EPAE-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00
	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/002W		

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FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6404
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KOLONIA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

UNCLAS HANOI 000246

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR EAP AND H

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM IN VIETNAM

Reftel: Hanoi 92

¶11. (SBU) Summary: The Thirteenth Annual Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) was held in Ha Long January 10 to 13. The U.S. Congressional was headed by Senator Daniel Akaka and included Representative Darrell Issa. The Forum expressed sympathy for tsunami victims and passed 22 non-binding resolutions on issues ranging from HIV/AIDS to ocean pollution. One point of contentious debate was North Korea. Japanese delegates both attempted to insert language condemning North Korea into a DPRK-specific resolution and opposed extending to North Korea an invitation to the next APPF. In a pull-aside meeting, Vu Mao, Chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly's (NA) Foreign Relations Committee, sought support for a visit to Washington by NA members next September. End Summary.

¶12. (U) The Forum included delegations from Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States. The largest groups came from China, headed by Gu Xulian, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress, Japan, led by December Shizuka Kamei and Yasuhiro Nakasone (who is Chairman Emeritus of the APPF) and Thailand, which sent twelve Senators led by Senate President Suchon Chaleekure.

¶13. (U) Delegates held sessions on four main topics, in addition to a "special session" on the Tsunami disaster. The first session dealt with political and security issues and was largely devoted to a discussion of terrorism and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. This was followed by a discussion on economic and trade Issues, which included a readout of APEC 2004 by the Chilean delegation and a discussion on a new round of WTO talks. The third topic was a catch-all of "items of general interest." This included the environment, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases (including SARS and avian influenza), sustainable development and ways to deal with transnational crimes. The subject of health led to a rare moment of dissent when Canada and Japan stated that they believed that Taiwan should be allowed to enter the WHO, a proposal to which China objected. The final topic was "the future works of the APPF," during which the Forum agreed to hold its next meeting in Bali.

¶14. (U) The meeting adopted 22 resolutions on a broad range of issues and issued the APPF-13 joint communique. The most contentious issue during the Forum was the resolution on North Korea. South Korea, Japan and the United States

sponsored a resolution calling for the resumption of the six-party talks, the peaceful resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue and inter-Korean reconciliation. In committee discussions on the resolution, the Japanese delegation repeatedly and forcefully called for the inclusion of text stating that resolution of the issue of Japanese abductees in North Korea is necessary for peace and stability in the region. China objected to the addition of any text on the issue, while South Korea sought a compromise using more tepid language. Eventually the phrase "full peace and stability... will be dependent on resolving issues affecting bilateral relations" was settled upon, and an annex to the resolution was attached stating the Japanese position. South Korea also called for North Korea to be invited to the APPF, which Canada supported. Japan opposed any invitation to North Korea, made reference to "as many as 300 Japanese citizens abducted" by North Korea and said that Korean attempts to explain the abductions were "insincere." Senator Akaka suggested that North Korea continue to be invited in observer status only, as in previous years, a suggestion which was broadly supported.

15. (SBU) The U.S. delegation had a pull-aside meeting with

Vu Mao, Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee. At the meeting, Chairman Mao stated that maintaining good relations with the United States is "an emphasis" of Vietnamese foreign policy and that, to this end, he is planning to lead a delegation of Vietnamese parliamentarians to Washington in September 2005. Vietnam is "lagging economically" due to "the results of years of war," and Mao said he hopes Vietnamese-Americans would do more to "help their homeland." All people in Vietnam have freedom of religion and of speech, and the National Assembly will try to resolve disputes with the United States in these areas, Mao continued. Senator Akaka said he would welcome the National Assembly visit. He also noted the importance of positive relations in the context of rapid Chinese and regional economic growth. Representative Issa added that the desire for strong bilateral relations is bipartisan. He suggested that the NA members visit his district in California, which contains many Vietnamese-Americans. Representative Issa also encouraged the Government of Vietnam to reach an IMET agreement with the United States. Chairman Mao said he would "do his utmost" to promote it. Also at the conference, Ambassador Marine held a sidelines discussion with Vice Foreign Minister Le Van Bang, reported reftel.

MARINE

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